

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 13-17 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The amended claims feature an email apparatus which comprises a sorting unit, sorting the email messages into a hierarchical structure according to sender addresses. The addresses each comprise a plurality of labels representing different levels of domain names, where the first label refers to a sub-domain at the lowest level, and the last level refers to a top-level domain. The sorting unit follows the hierarchical structure of the domain name by referring to the labels in reverse order that labels appear in the sender address (as exemplified in figure 13). Further, the system features a list displaying unit which displays a list including indicia of the labels of the sender addresses arranged in tree form, along with the e-mail titles corresponding to the sender addresses. Because the sorting unit follows the structure of the domain name by referring to the labels in reverse order of appearance within the sender address, it is believed that the claimed invention is novel. Examiner was unable to procure prior teachings of such features as claimed by the amended claims and could not render said features obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, without the use of impermissible hindsight constructions. Additionally, Applicant's remarks regarding the claim amendments and the provided prior art references' deficiencies are persuasive, in that none of the references taken singly, or in combination, teach the newly

claimed features. It is therefore the examiner's belief that the claimed invention does indeed possess novelty.

Any comments considered necessary by Applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee, and to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should clearly be labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tanim Hossain whose telephone number is 571/272-3881. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 am - 5 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jason Cardone can be reached on 571/272-3933. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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